	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Notice of Allowability	09/977,238 Examiner	JUN ET AL.	
		Art Unit	
	Brian Q Le	2623	
The MAILING DATE of this communication All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERI herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATE of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR	TS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in DL-85) or other appropriate commismers. This application is	n this application. If not incli unication will be mailed in di	uded ue course. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to			
2. X The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.			
3. $igotimes$ The drawings filed on <u>16 October 2001</u> are accepted	l by the Examiner.		
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign prical and All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority document International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)) * Certified copies not received: 	s have been received. s have been received in Applicati rity documents have been receive	on No	ication from the
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING Donoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANI THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be	DONMENT of this application. submitted. Note the attached EX	AMINER'S AMENDMENT o	
INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which		r declaration is deficient.	
 CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draft 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Exampaper No./Mail Date 	tsperson's Patent Drawing Revie		
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37	CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on t	he drawings in the front (not	the back) of
each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as sure. 7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREN	deposit of BIOLOGICAL MAT	ERIAL must be submitted	1. Note the
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of I	nformal Patent Application (F	PTO-152)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-		Summary (PTO-413),	
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTC		/Mail Date Amendment/Comment	
Paper No./Mail Date 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Dep	oosit 8. ⊠ Examiner's	Statement of Reasons for A	Allowance
	9. 🔲 Other		

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record do not show the limitations of a method for numerically analyzing a growth degree of grains on a surface of a semiconductor wafer which use the concept of combining the generation of standardized image data values of pixels with a predetermined threshold value, counting number of pixels of which a standardized image data value is greater than the threshold value and specifically with the "numerating the growth degree of grains on the surface of the numerical target zone by calculating a ratio of the number of the counted pixels with respect to a number of total pixels disposed within the numerical target zone."

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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CONTACT INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Q Le whose telephone number is 703-305-5083. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M - 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on 703-308-6604. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to TC Customer Service whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

BL October 21, 2004

> SAMIR AHMED PRIMARY EXAMINER